

Diversity of Entertainment Offered Capital Theatergoers, Including a First Performance

"The Checkerboard," Comedy By the Hattons, Has Premiere at Belasco Tomorrow Night

The Shubert-Belasco, after a brief period devoted to the films, is back in the ranks of the orthodox with the announcement that, commencing tomorrow night, "The Checkerboard," one of the new plays to be produced by Ray Comstock and Morris Gest, will open for a week's engagement.

"The Checkerboard" is described as a satirical comedy in three acts by those well-known writers, Frederick and Fanny Hutton, who are best known to theatergoers as the authors of such highly successful and diverting comedies as "Years of Discretion," "Upstairs and Down," and "Lombardi, Ltd."

The scenes of "The Checkerboard" are laid at the country home of a family of nouveau riche Americans and a ballet school in New York city fostered by Fodor Masimoff, an exile masquerading as a member of the Russian nobility. He is a bold and fascinating type of foreigner, a man whom many women have loved but who, according to his own admission, has broken all of the commandments and most of the laws. With the connivance of a scheming Englishman whom he had known previously in Paris and who at the time the action of the play begins is serving in the capacity of social secretary to a wealthy American designated as the "Ash-Cake King," for the reason that he has secured a fortune manufacturing this lowly household necessity, Fodor and several of his associates are introduced into the home of this socially ambitious American whose dream is to entertain and rub elbows with various odds and ends of nobility. With this foundation the Hattons have written another of those clever comedies marked by sharp and colorful characterization and abundantly supplied with brilliant ideas.

For the leading role of Fodor, the Russian, Messrs. Comstock and Gest have engaged Jose Ruben, a well-known young player who first came into prominence with the Washington Square Players. He is a comedian of brilliant character portraits to his credit, his most recent success having been achieved in the leading male role of Arnold Bennett's "Sacred and Profane Love" in which piece he impersonated the drug-crazed pianist, playing opposite Elsie Ferguson.

GARRICK. Irving Cummings, the brilliant and fascinating photoplay star, who joined the Garrick Players as leading man only a week ago, will be seen this week beginning tomorrow night in the second of his series of extraordinary dramatic presentations. The production scheduled for this week is, "The Very Idea," William LeBaron's piquant and overwhelming comedy hit that constituted one of the high lights of the Manhattan season something over a year ago.

In this production Mr. Cummings will have added to his personal acting talents than was "A Prince There Was," and he will also be accorded the support of a brilliant cast of Garrick Players, headed by Clarke H. Silvernail, the handsome and unsmilingly clever comedian, who scores such a smashing personal hit in "Fair and Warmer," and who made a rather subordinate role one of the high lights of last week's performance of "A Prince There Was."

In addition, the cast surrounding Mr. Cummings will include Anne Hamilton, the new leading woman of the Garrick Players, who made her debut concurrently with Mr. Cummings' introduction to the Washington public last week. A number of others well known in the Garrick organization will be seen in parts, and a regular matinee will be held at usual on Thursday and Saturday at 2:30 o'clock.

B. F. KEITH'S. Corinne Tilton, known to theatrical fame as "the chatter-box doll," will head a large and typical Broadway comedy, "The Hushed Hour," at B. F. Keith's Theater this week, commencing at the matinee tomorrow.

Featured in the production are Benney and Western, aided and abetted by Eddie Heffernan, Jolet Rolla, Naomi McIntyre, and other piquant and petite provocants of plaudits plentiful. The extra added attraction will be the well-known stock star, Frank Wilcox, with a strong supporting company in the new comedy, "S-s-s-s," by Vincent Lawrence. Harry and Anna Seymour, prime favorites here, will return with fresh material under their familiar title, "Breezy Bits," and also a new comedy, "The Hushed Hour," which will be a fairer and funnier than ever. Bert Melrose, the internationally famous indoor clown, is another special addition. Much new burlesque laughing matter will be offered, and the audience will be amused by "Melrose fall" will conclude the act. Edna Aug, who has been identified with many of the foremost musical comedy and vaudeville presentations, will be an appreciated inclusion with her cleverly and comically drawn character types. Robillo and Rothman, in a daring series; Burns and Foran, in a refined comedy novelty; William Edgerton, in "The Hushed Hour," and the other hits of the past week.

POLIS. The attraction at Poli's beginning today at 3 p. m. for one week will be "The Hushed Hour," the "Hushed Hour," adapted from Gertrude Brooks Hamilton's popular story of the same title, by Charles Maigne, and produced under the direction of Edmund Mortimer.

One single production has ever offered such a galaxy of stars as does "The Hushed Hour" and no single production has presented in the feature role a more accomplished actress than Miss Sweet, who will be remembered by all picturegoers as one of the brightest lights that shone in D. W. Griffith's constellation of stars at the time when Mary Pickford first came into public favor, when the single and double reeler were consid-

ered big features and before the multiple reel feature was known. The supporting cast includes such well known artists as Wilfred Lucas, Milton Sills, Harry Northrup, Wyndham Standing, Mary Anderson, Rosemary Theby, Gloria Hope, Winter Hall, Lydia Knott, Little Ben Alexander, who was seen to such fine advantage in "Hearts of the World," and Kid McCoy, who has proved himself as efficient before the camera as he did in the roped arena.

GAYETY. The full roster of "The Social Maids" company, which will open the 1926-27 season of burlesque at the Gayety Theater next Saturday, will arrive here tomorrow morning and enter upon a busy week of intensive rehearsing for the event. This organization is controlled by Hurlig & Seamon, noted producers, and is one of the headliners of the Columbia burlesque.

A musical fantasy in two acts, the book of which provides for the introduction of numerous specialties, will serve as the vehicle for the exploitation of the talents of the large cast. George Niblo, an eccentric comedian of original laugh-producing methods, and Helen Spencer, a prima donna possessed of unusual vocal attainments, are jointly starred. A chorus of twenty agile and attractive young women, forming a pleasing background for the work of the various principals.

The organization has been provided with an entirely new wardrobe and a new set of scenery, and the best efforts of exclusive Fifth avenue modistes—therefore the feminine members of the audience are assured added enjoyment in witnessing the performance.

STRAND. With a constant improvement in offerings that augurs well for what may be expected when the legitimate theater which operates under the Strand name feature acts have finished rehearsal and are ready for presentation. The Strand program for the week beginning tomorrow lists a lineup of acts that will undoubtedly merit the approval of the most fastidious.

Announced as a bevy of dainty, dignified, distinguished, fascinating examples of femininity, the Beatrice Melville Sextette in "A Study in Royal Blue" headlines the bill, the number being presented in a gorgeous stage setting and with special lighting effects which greatly enhance the beauty and effectiveness of the instrumental and vocal selections given. Harry Brooks and company, assisted by Katherine Clinton, divide the honors in a one-act comedy drama, "The Old Maid and the Bachelor." The rest of the well-balanced bill presents Paul and Pauline in a dainty aerial novelty; Eugene Emmett, the Irish minstrel, in "Story Songs"; and Har- old Newman and Andy Harris closing this portion of the program with a comedy singing and talking number, "In the Park."

As the chief photodramatic attraction for the week, William Fox's magnificent special production, "Kathleen Mavourneen," with Theda Bara in the stellar role, will be shown.

Selected short subjects, consisting of a multiple comedy, scenic and educational, and the latest Fox News, together with special orchestral features as arranged by Arthur J. Mannell, director of the Strand Concert Orchestra, who overture for the week being a music box novelty by Agoo, entitled "A Young Man's Fancy," all go to complete a bill that will undoubtedly tend to make the Strand a most popular center for amusement seekers during the next seven days.

COSMOS. A dainty and delightful musical comedietta constructed by George C. Green, the Glen Echo resort, who is responsible for "The Little Cottage" and "The Bride Shop," and a gem of musical and dancing diversions from big time presented by Goslar and Luby, will be the outstanding feature of the week. The latter bill the coming week. Mr. Choos' production is called "Private Property," which is no clue to its theme, but it will be presented by a galaxy of stars, including a new comedy, "The Hushed Hour," which will be a fairer and funnier than ever. Bert Melrose, the internationally famous indoor clown, is another special addition. Much new burlesque laughing matter will be offered, and the audience will be amused by "Melrose fall" will conclude the act. Edna Aug, who has been identified with many of the foremost musical comedy and vaudeville presentations, will be an appreciated inclusion with her cleverly and comically drawn character types. Robillo and Rothman, in a daring series; Burns and Foran, in a refined comedy novelty; William Edgerton, in "The Hushed Hour," and the other hits of the past week.

NEW PLAY OF MEXICO TO OPEN AT NATIONAL

"The Broken Wing," a new play by Paul Dickey and Charles W. Goddard, authors of "The Misleading Lady" and "The Hushed Hour," will be placed in rehearsal next week preparatory to a short tour out of town to be followed by a New York opening. Sargent Aborn, who is producing the play, has arranged to present it at the National Theater on August 29. The story of "The Broken Wing" is laid in Mexico a short distance below the Rio Grande and concerns adventures romantic and otherwise of an aviator brought down in a Mexican village by a broken wing.

On Stage and Screen



Dorothy Smoller in "CHECKER BOARD" TAKING A LOOK AHEAD

SHUBERT-BELASCO. "Spanish Love," a new play by Avery Hopwood and Mary Roberts Rinehart, based on the Continental success, "Aux Jardins de Murcie," by C. de Batlle and A. Laverne, will be presented at the Shubert-Belasco Theater the week of August 9 by Thomas, the charming and ingenious Wagenhals and Kemper Company. Incidental to the play is a musical score of rare charm by H. Maurice Jaquet, one of the most popular composers in France today.

The cast of "Spanish Love" is a large one, numbering more than forty persons. It includes several well-known Broadway favorites, and Los Caritos, two of the most popular dancers in Spain who were engaged by Messrs. Wagenhals and Kemper for this engagement. "Spanish Love," goes direct from here to New York, opening at Maxine Elliott's Theater on Monday, August 16.

PALACE. The attraction at Loew's Palace Theater for the full week beginning next Sunday, August 8, will be Olive Thomas, the charming and ingenious dancer in Spain who were engaged by Messrs. Wagenhals and Kemper for this engagement. "Spanish Love," goes direct from here to New York, opening at Maxine Elliott's Theater on Monday, August 16.

COLUMBIA. For the first four days of next week, beginning next Sunday afternoon, August 8, Loew's Columbia Theater offers Elaine Hammerstein in the latest cinema production, "The Point of View." For the final three days of the same week, J. Warren Kerrigan will be seen as the Columbia star in "The Green Flame."

GARRICK. For the full week, beginning next Sunday night, August 8, the Garrick Players announce Irving Cummings, the famous photoplay star, supported

delightful 40-mile moonlight sail leaving 7th street wharf at 7:15 p. m.

MARSHALL HALL. In the cool of the evening enjoy the thirty-two-mile sail on the hurricane deck to Marshall Hall, where free dancing is provided as well as a number of other amusements. Steamer Charles Maclester makes three trips daily to this popular river resort, leaving Seventh street wharf at 10 a. m., 2:30 and 6:30 p. m. The steamer stops at Mt. Vernon on the 10 a. m. and 2:30 trips.

CHEVY CHASE LAKE. Good floor space and a summer breeze from across the lake to fan you and snappy, up-to-the-minute music furnished by the Meyer Davis Orchestra to dance by are but a few of the attractions that go to make Chevy Chase Lake the most popular of popular summer dancing resorts in or about Washington.

N. Y. SYMPHONY SOCIETY IN TEN CONCERTS HERE It is announced by the Symphony Society of New York that Walter Damrosch and the New York Symphony Orchestra will be heard next season in Washington, for ten concerts—five to be given in the afternoon at the National Theater, and five evenings at the Washington Fine Arts Society. Baltimore will hear the orchestra five times during the season. Philadelphia is scheduled for four concerts. Rochester for three; Cleveland and Toronto for two each; and Detroit, Oberlin, Scranton, Poughkeepsie and Elizabeth for one concert each.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH. Chesapeake Beach, the nearby Maryland bay resort, is experiencing the best fishing in its history. Hardheads, Norfolk spot, perch, and trout are being caught in large numbers. The spot are the largest ever caught in the bay. It is not unusual for excursionists to catch several hundred fish within a few hours. The crabbing season has started, but will not reach its height for several weeks. Salt water bathing, boating, and free dancing to wild jazz music are other popular attractions. On the long boardwalk are varied amusements, all over the water. After-office trips to the resort on the train leaving the District Line at 6:30 a. m. are very popular among Government employees.

COLONIAL BEACH. Enjoy the delightful salt water bathing found at Washington's only nearby summer resort with a sandy beach which is reached after a delightful 70-mile ride on the steamer St. Johns. At Colonial Beach you will find many outdoor amusements, as well as fishing and crabbing, also good hotel accommodations. The steamer St. Johns makes the trip every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a. m. and on Saturday at 2:30 p. m. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday the steamer St. Johns carries the Washington pleasure seekers on the

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WHERE YOU MAY GO TODAY



PALACE—Charles Ray in "Homer Comes Home."
RIALTO—"Going Some" with all-star cast.
COLUMBIA—Enid Bennett in "Hairpins."
CRANDALL'S—Norma Tal-madge in "The New Moon."
KNICKERBOCKER—Alice Joyce in "The Prey."
METROPOLITAN—Alice Joyce in "The Prey."
GARRICK—Irving Cummings in "The Very Idea."
GLEN ECHO—Outdoor attractions and band concerts.
CHESAPEAKE BEACH—Shore attractions.
COSMOS—Vaudeville and photo-plays.
STRAND—Vaudeville and photo-plays.
B. F. KEITH'S—Vaudeville.
POLIS—Blanche Sweet in "The Hushed Hour."

SAYS SINCERITY IS SECRET OF ACTING Star of "The Checkerboard" Says "Technique" Is Overestimated Word.

"Sincerity is the secret of acting," says Jose Ruben, the young French player who comes to the Shubert-Belasco Theater tomorrow night, in the leading male role of the new Frederic and Fanny Hutton comedy, "The Checkerboard." All the big words used about technique only make me smile. Too much emphasis is often placed upon acting and not enough on sincerity. If one is sincere, if one tries to feel the part he is playing, the technique which an actor needs—easy, naturalness, expressive gestures and good reading—will follow. To be sincere the actor should think of his part in connection with real life. When a man is angry his voice naturally is in the shop-pitch. He is not conscious of it and does not have to keep it at the proper pitch by any mental effort. He pauses at the proper times, but gestures naturally. The stage attempts to represent life. Why should an actor, then, study life and bring their observations into their work?

"It was Coquelin who said that he directed an actor who reasoned too much. And he was right. A Frenchman did not mean that actors should not be intelligent and well educated, and that they should not make use of their intelligence—far from it. But he did suggest that the player should not lose himself in the mechanics of acting and overlook the meaning and feeling contained in the lines he was called upon to speak.

"Every actor's school of acting which maintains that technique is everything, and that with proper technique an actor can play any part without even attempting to feel it. But happily I am not one of those who subscribe to this belief. With sincerity an actor's reading of lines can never become monotonous. He need not worry about gestures if he is sincere. If he is a little awkward at first, his experience will soon make him proficient. Not alone should sincerity in acting be applied to emotional acting. An actor can be sincere in comedy parts, in whimsical parts, in farcical parts—in any kind of stage parts—and he should be sincere."

EAST SIDE PRIMA DONNA TO SING IN "MECCA"

From the comparative obscurity of the Bowery Second avenue to the bright lights of Broadway, is a remarkable change that came into the life of a young eighteen-year-old girl singer of the East Side, when Morris Gest, theatrical impresario, persuaded her father to bring a musician from Wilna, Russia; she has been playing small parts in the Jewish theaters of the East Side since she was eight years old, and in addition to being a singer, she has the most brilliant future of any young singer in America today. He sent for his attorney and had a contract for five years drawn up immediately.

Miss Toback came to Mr. Gest in his offices at the Manhattan Opera House to ask for an appointment so she might sing for him. She sang three songs, and Mr. Gest, in an outburst of enthusiasm, declared that she had the most brilliant future of any young singer in America today. He sent for his attorney and had a contract for five years drawn up immediately.

During the seven weeks of "darkness," the Gayety Theater has been in the hands of painters, decorators, and carpenters, and the result of their labors will be manifested upon the opening of the theater next week. "Fair and Warmer," which appeared elsewhere in the paper, Manager Taylor presents a plan to the first-nighter which will enable him to save and see at considerable saving if the reader will avail himself and purchase seats for the opening night of the new play, "The Checkerboard," which opens at the Shubert-Belasco Theater tomorrow night.

Mr. Taylor is frank in saying that he believes it pays to advertise, and that in reducing the price of his tickets from 25 per cent to 33 1/3 per cent he simply charges it to advertising, as he believes the worth of the play and the company will stand on its own merits after the first night. The producers, Messrs. Comstock and Gest, believe in the play, proof of which is in the fact that they have cast it with a fine company and staged it without regard to expense.

The author, Mr. and Mrs. Hutton, provided the stage with many successful and delightful plays, so it would seem that there can be no fear that those who take advantage of Manager Taylor's production bargain night will have no cause for complaint.

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The gala transcontinental tour of "Floroda" will not begin until the first week in September, which means that the revival is to remain at the Century until that time. Throughout the tour the company will travel by special train, with special accommodations for the sextet.

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she created" for the stage play. Laskey brought back an original scenario from Barry, and said that Arnold Bennett would come to this country to study screen technique. He also announced that a number of other important English writers would prepare scripts for Famous.

Crandall's Knickerbocker Theater is soon to undergo extensive alterations, all planned solely to increase the convenience and comfort of the patrons. New stairways will be built to facilitate access and egress to and from parts of the house which are not remote from the entrance but to and from which slanted cuts have been cleverly devised. Box arrangements and their seating are to be appreciably amplified along the lines of greater comfort and several architectural innovations are to be added. The work will be done under the personal supervision of Mr. Reginald Wyelife Gear, the Washington architect by whom the Knickerbocker was planned and built.

Little Marjorie Bell, the most youthful of all the Garricks, and the daughter of L. M. Bell, producer of the Garrick players, came near stealing the show at the Garrick last week with her part in "A Prince There Was." Marjorie made her stage debut last season with Earle Fox in "Daddy Longlegs."

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The author, Mr. and Mrs. Hutton, provided the stage with many successful and delightful plays, so it would seem that there can be no fear that those who take advantage of Manager Taylor's production bargain night will have no cause for complaint.

Lawrence Beatus, manager of Loew's Palace Theater, came back to Washington last week for his Atlantic City vacation. In the interval of two weeks Mr. Beatus acquired a gross tonnage of nine pounds in excess of his departure weight, which nine pounds cost him, at a rough estimate, a trifle under \$50 a pound.

E. J. Stutz, the motoring manager of Loew's Columbia Theater, set sail for fair skies and with a strong breeze astern to make the trip of Philadelphia by nightfall. His Slip-Looze six-master was rigged under baby topalls, and Skipper Slutz posed for the movie men as he departed. He was clad in khaki shirt, trousers of the same material and a smile that was almost as durable. Orangelio J. Ratto, the debonair, will officiate in Mr. Stutz's two-week absence.

The gala transcontinental tour of "Floroda" will not begin until the first week in September, which means that the revival is to remain at the Century until that time. Throughout the tour the company will travel by special train, with special accommodations for the sextet.

Back from Europe, Jesse Laskey, according to an official announcement issued by Famous Players yesterday, said that James J. Barry would come to America in the fall to assist in making "Peter Pan" and "The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas" was not at liberty at this time to say whether or not Maude Adams would "be seen in the title role which

she created" for the stage play. Laskey brought back an original scenario from Barry, and said that Arnold Bennett would come to this country to study screen technique. He also announced that a number of other important English writers would prepare scripts for Famous.

Crandall's Knickerbocker Theater is soon to undergo extensive alterations, all planned solely to increase the convenience and comfort of the patrons. New stairways will be built to facilitate access and egress to and from parts of the house which are not remote from the entrance but to and from which slanted cuts have been cleverly devised. Box arrangements and their seating are to be appreciably amplified along the lines of greater comfort and several architectural innovations are to be added. The work will be done under the personal supervision of Mr. Reginald Wyelife Gear, the Washington architect by whom the Knickerbocker was planned and built.

Little Marjorie Bell, the most youthful of all the Garricks, and the daughter of L. M. Bell, producer of the Garrick players, came near stealing the show at the Garrick last week with her part in "A Prince There Was." Marjorie made her stage debut last season with Earle Fox in "Daddy Longlegs."

Jack Ellis, the member of the Garrick players, who assumes any part at will, is preparing to invade the photoplay field in California within a few weeks. Ellis, aside from being an actor, is a photographer of unusual skill, so he feels himself properly safeguarded against starvation.

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